

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Come As You Are

With Jeremy Vasic
March 3, 2024



Mark 2:13-17 Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him.¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him.

¹⁵ Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.)¹⁶ But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?"

¹⁷ When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Jesus' healing is only received in our sickness.

What is holding you back from coming to Jesus?

"The cumulative testimony of the four Gospels is that when Jesus Christ sees the fallenness of the world all about him, his deepest impulse, his most natural instinct, is to move toward that sin and suffering, not away from it." – Dane Ortlund, Gentle & Lowly

1 John 1:8-2:1 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.

Coming to Jesus means acknowledging our need.

"When you come to Christ for mercy and love and help in your anguish and perplexity and sinfulness, you are going with the flow of his own deepest wishes, not against them." – Dane Ortlund, Gentle & Lowly

Big Idea: Expose yourself before Jesus to receive His forgiveness and delight.

The first step in repentance is seeing and acknowledging our own deep need for grace.

"For some of us, the idea of repentance can bring to mind a particular emotional experience, or the minor-key songs of an altar call at a revival meeting. But repentance and faith are the constant, daily rhythms of the Christian life, our breathing out and breathing in. In these small moments that reveal my lostness and brokenness, I need to develop the habit of admitting the truth of who I am – not running to justify myself or minimize my sin. And yet, in my brokenness and lostness, I also need to form the habit of letting God love me, trusting again in His mercy, and receiving again his words of absolution and forgiveness over me.... Repentance is not usually a moment wrought in high drama. It is the steady drumbeat of a life in Christ." – Tish Harrison Warren, Liturgy of the Ordinary

Confession consists of searching and naming.

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's service
are from the New Living Translation (NLT).*



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

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Come As You Are

#1 of 4 - March 3, 2024

- 1) Last week we looked at helping other people meet Jesus based in a passage from John 1. How has the Lord been speaking to you this week? How were you able to apply this message?

- 2) Read Mark 2:13-17. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible?

- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?

- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us about coming to Jesus to receive his forgiveness and his delight?

- 5) What is holding you back from coming to Jesus?

- 6) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage? How can you know more of Jesus’ forgiveness, healing, and delight this week?



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